

Cost Of Forest Fires

LOSSES CAUSED BY FOREST FIRES In Canada during the past year have been estimated at \$100 million. It was estimated by the Canadian Forestry Association that until the end of September, 156,000 acres of forest lands had been ravaged by fire and that the potential value of this land to Canada in terms of wood and labor was \$50,000,000. It was believed that both these figures would be increased when final statistics were made available at the end of the year. In British Columbia and Alberta suffered the heaviest loss according to the early surveys, with Alberta recording trees covering 613,000 acres and destroying \$20,000,000 worth of timber. In Saskatchewan, 498,700 acres were lost, and the fires were estimated to have cost that province \$10,124,910.

Annual Toll Is Growing In Manitoba, 122,182 acres of forest lands were destroyed and the loss was valued at \$3,298,908. All the provinces were affected, with losses running high in Quebec, Ontario, the Maritimes and British Columbia. In Alberta, 98 per cent. of the fires were attributed to campers, while in the other provinces 74 per cent. was said to have started in that way. The provinces reported that in 1948 forty per cent. of all forest fires were started by campers and smokers, and during that year more than 3,000,000 acres of forests were destroyed by fire. The average loss over the past ten years has been 2,000,000 acres each year, and the annual cost of fighting forest fires in the ten year period between 1938 and 1948 amounted to over \$900,000. . . .

Constitute A Serious Loss These extensive and costly fires are becoming a very serious problem to those who our forests supply raw materials for a number of important industries, including pulp and paper, saw mills, many branches of the building trades, the making of railway tie and other essential products. If fire losses continue at their present rate there will soon not be enough lumber left to meet these demands. The long term effects of such losses cannot be calculated which will affect us for many years even under the most carefully planned reforestation programs. It is apparent that every effort must be made to conserve the forests which are left, through using all possible measures to prevent fires, and through making available wherever they are needed, in present and future, the growing and maintenance of new forests. Such efforts should be the concern of one of Canada's richest resources, and full co-operation should be given to the efforts of governments and other interested bodies in controlling and preventing the growing annual destruction of our forests.

Salmon Often Fall In Long Distance Swim

VANCOUVER—Sockeye salmon like long distance motorists, can run out of "fuel" and fail to complete the lengthy up-river swim to spawning grounds.

Scientists of the International Pacific Sockeye Salmon association have reported this recently-discovered fact in a discussion of new fish transportation methods.

Salmon, it seems, store up by instinct only enough body food to get them to the spawning grounds.

A sockeye that originated 400 miles from salt water will "fuel" up for a 400-mile river swim.

As they travel, after leaving salt water they may fail to reach 150 pounds, the scientists say.

Oil Search In Alberta Reaches New Peak

CALGARY—Drilling activity has reached a high peak in Alberta during the past few months.

The oil drilling rigs currently

in operation are about another

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tory and field development sec-

tions in the fall.

In the province, a new record all-time

high of 105 drilling rigs penetrating

the earth's surface in search of

oil and gas has been set.

The search for petroleum products is spread throughout Alberta, from just north of the U.S. border to the Arctic Circle. Of the 105 rigs currently engaged in exploration, about another 10 are scheduled to move to new exploratory and field development sec-

tions in the fall.

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